GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1299
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
DIABETES PATIENTS
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diabetes patients in India during the last three years;

(b) the present cost of the medicines consumed by a diabetic patient during a month;

(c) whether any request has been received from any quarter for reducing tax on medicines for diabetes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the percentage of the disease per lakh of population in this country; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to spread awareness about this disease?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): No Nation wide data regarding number of diabetic patients in India is being maintained.However, according to rough estimates based on occasional survey done in urban & rural areas, the number of diabetic patients in the country in the year 2000 is about 25 million and there is epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes, particularly in urban areas of the country.

(b): According to ICMR, the cost of Diabetes in India (CODI) study done in 1999, the following estimates per month were made for cost of Drug Therapy.

```
All Diabetics       Rs. 188
Type I Diabetics (Insulin Dependent)    Rs. 317
Type II Diabetics (Non Insulin Dependent)   Rs. 162
```

(c)&(d): Request for reduction of taxes on medicines are being received in this Ministry from time to time.

(e): It is estimated that there are 2500 diabetics per lakh population which is 2.5%. As per a Study conducted in the major cities of Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi, the prevalence of Diabetes in the age group of 20-39 years was 4.6% which is significantly less than the prevalence of Diabetes above 40 years of age which was 23.80%.

(f): Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) has strategies/programmes including use of powerful electronic media to spread health messages to increase Public Health Awareness about Diabetes. `Health Melas` also contribute to Public Awareness in this regard. Indian Council of Medical Research also IEC Activities and Public Awareness campaigns stressing on Healthy Dietary and Physical Activity measures.